



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

lm
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/006,204	12/10/2001	Yoshito Sakai	111412	9036

25944 7590 12/30/2003

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. BOX 19928
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320

EXAMINER

LE, THANH TAM T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 12/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/006,204

Applicant(s)

SAKAI ET AL.

Examiner

Thanh-Tam T. Le

Art Unit

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 7-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 10-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3 and 7-9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 11 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 11, line 2, "the second conductors" lacks proper antecedent basis.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hashiguchi (5,984,704).

Hashiguchi, figures 4-6, 13 and 18, discloses a connector assembly for a flat wire member (7) including conductors (71) and an end portion split into a plurality of split pieces (figure 6), comprising:

- a first connector (11) including terminals (13) accommodated therein; and
- a plurality of second connectors (a first half and a second half of a slider 6) for respectively holding split pieces of the flat wire member in a state that portions of the conductor are exposed;

wherein the first connector including a plurality coupling portions (121a) to be respectively coupled with the plurality of second connectors, and the terminals are

accommodated in the first connector as to be brought into contact with the exposed portions of conductors of the flat wire member when the second connectors are respectively coupled with the coupling portions.

Regarding claim 10, Hashiguchi discloses an electrical connection structure comprising:

- a flat wire member (7) including conductors (71) formed thereon and an end portion split into a plurality of split pieces (split by a notch 75 in figure 6);
- a first connector (11) including a plurality of cavities (figure 4) formed side by side and terminals (13) accommodated in respective cavities; and
- a plurality of second connectors (first half and second half of slider 6) respectively holding the split pieces of the flat wire member. The second connectors being to be coupled with the first connector with the split pieces being inserted into the cavities of the first connector to bring the conductors into contact with corresponding terminals (figure 13).

Regarding claim 11, each of the second connectors including a holder for holding the split end of the flat wire member and a housing for retaining the split end of the holder with portions of conductors of the flat wire member being exposed of the housing to be brought into contact with the corresponding terminals of the first connector, and the first connector including a plurality of tubular hoods to which the housings of the second connectors are to be fitted upon coupling of the first and second connectors (figures 4-5 and 13).

Regarding claim 12, the terminals of the first connectors are connected with a circuit board (19, figure 13).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 2-3 and 7-9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the reference discloses the coupling portions of the first connector are arranged on one side of the first connector side by side in widthwise direction of the flat wire member, in combination with the other claimed elements of the embodiments recited.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

7. The new limitation "a plurality of second connectors for respectively holding split pieces of the flat wire member in a state that portions of the conductors are exposed" is made the final rejection.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

9. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is (703) 306-5711. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

11. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on (703) 308-2710. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

12. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

13. Any correspondence to this action may be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


14. For additional information regarding this new address, which was effective May 1, 2003, see Correspondence with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 68 Fed. Reg. 14332 (March 25, 2003).

15. Or faxed to: 703-308-7722 or 308-7724 (informal or draft communications should be clearly labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

16. Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

Crystal Plaza 4, Fourth Floor (receptionist)
2201 South Clark Place, Arlington, Virginia

TL.


JAVAID H. NASRI
PRIMARY EXAMINER